

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2175

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BG
SUBJECT: ZIA MAKES REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION; NAP/B
FOR POLITICAL FRONT; AWAMI LEAGUE MAKES STAB AT
RECONCILIATION

REFS: A. DACCA 2102; B. DACCA 1963; C. DACCA 1780

1. DURING A BRIEF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE UPON
RETURNING FROM TOKYO SUNDAY NIGHT (APRIL 9), PRESI-
DENT ZIA TOLD REPORTERS THAT A PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
WOULD BE HELD IN DECEMBER AND THAT THE PARLIAMENT
ELECTED WOULD BE SOVEREIGN IN ITS FUNCTIONS. ZIA SAID
ALSO THAT THE INTERNAL DEBATE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF
THE NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON. PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS, HE SAID, WOULD COME BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY
POLLS. ZIA BRUSHED ASIDE A REPORTER'S QUESTION OF
WHETHER HX (ZIA) WOULD JOIN JAGODAL; AS ZIA REPLIED
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"ALL TYPES OF POSSIBILITIES ARE THERE." OPEN POLITICS,
HE ADDED, WOULD COME "VERY SOON."

2. DURING ZIA'S ABSENCE, MASHIUR RAHMAN, PRESIDENT
OF NAP/B, TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HIS PARTY WAS
PREPARED TO JOIN ZIA'S PROPOSED POLITICAL FRONT, BUT
MASHIUR ADDED A NEW CONDITION TO THE THREE USUALLY

HEARD FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN A FRONT. TO THE USUAL DEMANDS FOR FIRM DATE OF ELECTIONS, OPEN POLITICS AND REPEAL OF FOURTH AMENDMENT IS ADDED THE DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT IN THE FRONT'S PROGRAM CALLING FOR "THE EMANCIPATION OF THE DOWNTRODDEN PEOPLE OF THE SOCIETY INCLUDING THE PEASANTS AND WORKERS." (COMMENT: MASHIUR'S NEW DEMAND, EASILY MET BY ZIA, MAY HAVE BEEN SIMPLY MASHIUR'SXMM WAY OF LETTING HIS POLITICAL ASSOCIATES KNOW THAT WHILE HE HAS BEEN MEETING CONSTANTLY WITH ZIA, HE IS STILL HIS OWN MAN AND HAS NOT ABANDONED HIS FELTIST PRINCIPLES IN HIS QUEST FOR POWER. END COMMENT.)

3. THE TWO FACTIONS OF THE AWAMI LEAGUE, STRUGGLING FOR THREE WEEKS OVER THE COMPOSITION OF A WORKING COMMITTEE (REF C), HAS TEMPORARILY AT LEAST COMPROMISED ON A WORKING COMMITTEE OF 34 PEOPLE. ORIGINALLY THE MODERATE FACTION HAS ISSUED A LIST OF 27 NAMES, SHORT-CHANGING THE BAKSALITES, WHILE THE LATTER COUNTERED WITH A LIST OF 63 NAMES. THE SEVEN ADDITIONAL NAMES ARE ALL FROM THE ORIGINAL BAKSAL LIST. A JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED APRIL 9 BY THE FACTIONAL LEADERS ABDUR RAZZAK AND ABDUL MALLIK UKIL SAID THAT AN UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN REACHED "IN THE GREATER INTEREST OF THE PARTY AND THE NATION." (OBSERVERS OVER THE WEEKEND HAD LITTLE FAITH IN THE UNDERSTANDING. AS ONE SAID, "THE BAKSAL FACTION WILL KEEP PROBING FOR ANOTHER WEAK SPOT ON WHICH TO BUILD AN ISSUE.")
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4. IN THE MEANTIME, LISTS ARE BEING PUBLISHED DAILY OF ADVOCATES AND OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY JOINING JAGODAL. FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENTS, ONE CAN VISUALIZE FLOCKS OF PEOPLE RUSHING TO JOIN, BUT IN FACT LITTLE INTEREST HAS YET BEEN OBSERVED.
SCHNEIDER

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